

REMARKS

The present invention relates to an antique style decorative sheet and to an antique style decorative laminate.

Regarding the Office Action of November 21, 2007, it is first of all appreciated that the Examiner withdrew the previous rejection in view of Applicant's Response filed October 29, 2007. However, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 have been newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on U.S. Patent No. 6,183,842 (Shimizu et al) in view of JP 62-198455 further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,101, 644 (Toshine et al).

In the present Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 2 and 4 to further specify that the pigment-containing release coat layer is laminated between the release base layer and the resin coat layer. Furthermore, new preferred embodiment claims 9 - 12 have been added directed to preferred embodiment in terms of the pigment content in the pigment-containing release coat layer. The amended and new claims are supported by the disclosure in the specification, e.g., at page 8, lines 4 *et seq.*, and by the working Examples at pages 10 - 13.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims herein clearly distinguish over the Shimizu et al reference even as it might be modified based on the disclosure of JP 62-198455 A and further in view of the Toshine et al reference. This is explained below.

A pigment-containing release coat layer is opaque. Therefore, if a pigment-containing release coat layer is applied to a hologram sheet, the hologram would not be visible. Such

hologram sheet would clearly be useless. Therefore, a person following the teachings of Shimizu et al would have no reason to use a pigment-containing release coat layer.

On the other hand, a pigment-containing release coat layer has extra merit in the case of an antique style decorative sheet and laminate in accordance with the presently claimed invention.

More specifically, before scraping, a decorative sheet is colored by pigment. When this sheet is scraped, the surface of the sheet is “decolorized”, because the pigment-containing release coat layer is scraped away. Therefore, an artisan conducting the scraping process can confirm visually if and when the scraping treatment reaches to the resin coat layer.

In view of the foregoing, is respectfully submitted to be clear that the amended and new claims hereinabove clearly distinguish over and is unobvious in view of the cited references.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the sole rejection should be withdrawn, and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 - 12 are in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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